

Insights and Reflections: Arts and Adaptation

On March 30, 2022, the Resilient Nation Partnership Network (RNPN) hosted a Resilience Exchange on the connection between arts and adaptation. The gathering highlighted how art can create meaningful connections and encourage resilience projects. The key points and considerations from the panel discussion are listed below.

Key Points and Considerations

- **Art is the marriage of communication, emotional connection and learning.** Natural hazard resilience and preparedness hinges on effective communication and learning. This makes art an apt component of effective resilience projects.
- **Start small.** Begin by choosing more accessible art and resilience projects. Evaluate the strategies as they progress and scale the pieces that are working.
- **Partnerships are everything.** Create an asset map of who can help achieve your goals. Partner with organizations that can connect your organization to areas of expertise it may not have. Build mutually beneficial relationships to elevate each other's projects. Working with the arts might be new, but there are experienced arts partners who can guide you.
- **Incorporate art as early in the process as you can.** Keep in mind how to design a safe and beautiful space. This can also help secure community interest.
- **Use art to humanize mitigation, adaptation and resilience.** Art can reveal how resilience projects affect real people. People will likely be more interested and supportive of a resilience project when they see the humanity in it, not just facts and figures.
- **Practice + imagination = increased preparedness!** A “sunny day” gathering of any kind (but especially a festival or large event) can be an opportunity to practice the activation of infrastructure pieces that would also be deployed during adverse conditions. Additionally, it would serve as a fun convening point for different sectors to become acquainted and consider “stormy day” organizational needs.

Projects and Resources

Panelists and participants shared the projects and resources listed below during the event. The inclusion in this list is not an endorsement by FEMA or the federal government.



FEMA



Resilient Nation
Partnership Network

Resources Provided by Government Entities (i.e., Federal Agency, Tribe, City, etc.)

- [*Art Became The Oxygen: An Artistic Response Guide*](#), U.S. Department of Arts and Culture
- [*Citizen Archivist Program*](#), National Archives and Records Administration
- [*Community Emergency Response Team Program*](#), FEMA
- [*Denver Public Art Program*](#), Denver Arts & Venues
- [*Guide to Expanding Mitigation: Making the Connection with Arts and Culture*](#), FEMA
- [*Inspiration Book: Arts and Experiential Learning*](#), FEMA

Resources Provided by the Private Sector and Nonprofits

- [*Art of Mass Gatherings for Performing Arts*](#), The Performing Arts Readiness Project and Majestic Collaborations
- [*Community Forms*](#), Black Cube
- [*CREATE Resilience*](#), Nurture Nature Center
- [*Crisis Analysis & Mitigation Coach Pilot*](#), National Coalition of Arts' Preparedness & Emergency Response
- [*Field Scans*](#), ArtPlace America
- [*FORWARD*](#), Forecast Public Art
- [*Gentilly Resilience District Public Art Project*](#), Arts Council New Orleans
- [*Golden Haiku Poetry Contest*](#), Golden Triangle Business Improvement District
- [*HighWaterLine*](#), Eve Mosher
- [*Let's Talk Communities and Climate: Communication Guidance for City and Community Leaders*](#), ecoAmerica, Path to Positive Communities, and The National League of Cities
- [*Memory Café Directory*](#), Memory Café
- [*Mental Health*](#), Forecast Public Art
- [*One Poem at a Time*](#), Smoketown Voice
- [*Performing Recovery: Music and Disaster Relief in Post-3.11 Japan*](#), University Of California Riverside
- [*Problem Solving Through Arts and Cultural Strategies: Creative Placemaking Guidance for Local Governments*](#), International City/County Management Association
- [*Rain Gardens*](#), Golden Triangle Business Improvement District
- [*Rise Up and Sing*](#), Sing Out Publications
- [*Sidewalk Poetry*](#), Public Art Saint Paul
- [*Social Spaces*](#), Golden Triangle Business Improvement District
- [*The Cosmopolitan Canopy: Race and Civility in Everyday Life*](#), W.W. Norton & Company
- [*Water Color: Inspiring Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystems by Painting With Algae*](#), Bowling Green State University

Contributors: FEMA; Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (DC); Justice + Joy Consulting; Majestic Collaborations